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I will not believe that the British minister will be so weak and wicked as to persist in forcing such a measure upon us, if it is contrary to the wishes and consent of the nation; but if he should be so unprincipled, do not submit to the degradation of having a *subjection* forced upon you under the name of an *Union*, or be necessitated to beg for what we detest and abhor. It is a duty which we owe to ourselves, and our country, to let our sentiments be publicly known—It is a duty which we owe to our posterity to resist a measure by which we sow the seeds of future rebellions, and unnaturally bequeath the harvest to our children: Impoverished, taxed, and oppressed they will say, the consent of our fathers never was obtained to this destructive measure—They were taken by surprise, at the end (if I may venture to call this the end) of a cruel and savage rebellion—They were terrified into this Union which depopulates our country. In my opinion, one of the strongest arguments against the Union is, that the time when it was proposed, and the expedition with which it was carried, will afford to our children a reason why they should free themselves from the shackles thus forced upon us: They will seize the first moment of British distress to tear them off, and reassert their independence—they will awake from their dream, and I tremble for the event of their awaking!

But for ourselves a more efficacious and less dangerous method is open: Let the voice of the nation be heard upon the question—If that agrees in thinking this an oppressive and ill-timed innovation, it may yet be prevented—It will not be forced upon you, your Sovereign never will be unjust to you—Or if a majority of the people of Ireland should approve of an Union, whatever the sentiments of individuals may be, they must yield to the opinion of that majority. The Union will then come to us more graciously, because our opinion has been taken, our consent obtained—our children will then lose the idea of revenge for an oppression in calm submission: they will learn resignation in the belief, that when we consented to the measure, our intention was good, and we had only mistaken the means of making them happy. Thus, and no otherwise, can England expect a firm and lasting Union.

The only constitutional method of procuring the sentiments of the nation, upon any political subject, is by meetings of freeholders and freemen in the different counties and cities: This ought to be immediately and universally adopted. It is peculiarly necessary and useful in your province, where freeholders are possessed of information, to form an opinion, and independence to speak it aloud. Require your Sheriffs in your different counties to convene county meetings for the purpose of considering this question, and transmitting your opinions to your different representatives: such every sheriff ought, every honest sheriff will attend to, and comply with;—but should there be any one ignorant or corrupt

enough to refuse, you may as legally assemble without his interference, as has been very fully shewn to you by incontrovertible argument in the seventh number of this paper. It is the constitutional and unalienable right of freeholders to assemble for the purpose of instructing their representatives; and on such a question as this it is indisputably the duty of representatives to receive, and to obey the instructions of their constituents: I say, on such a question as this, which has for its object to wrest from you for ever that right which you have entrusted into the hands of your present representatives for a limited time—when that trustee in whom you have invested your dearest possession for a time, is going to resign it for ever to a stranger without your consent, and contrary to your wish: caution him not to do so—tell him that he betrays his trust if he does—instruct him by giving him your opinion, the opinion of such men must and will have weight:—Rouse yourselves then! the crisis of your fever is past!—a lassitude and languor has succeeded, but shake it off, and your nerves will resume their accustomed tone. To be silent when your dearest rights are invaded is an unpardonable apathy—Choose the side of this momentous question which you approve, but having done so, speak out boldly—Let the law of Solon be placed before the eyes, and treasured in the breast of every one of you, that when the liberty of your country is in danger, the man who remains neuter, deserves to be infamous!

AN ULSTER MAN.

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### A PROPHETIC FRAGMENT.

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He seemed  
For dignity composed and high exploit,  
But all was false and hollow.

AND in those days there shall appear a youth, tall of stature and not of ungoodly appearance, who will derive his birth from one country, his religion from another, and his politics from a third—and he will offer himself a candidate to represent a great and respectable province in the kingdom where he was born—and he will declare even *before his beard is grown*, that the first object of his ambition is to be returned for it—and he will tell openly that he will pay all due deference to the opinions of his constituents, and to the dictates of his own conscience, and all the people will wonder exceedingly, and many of them will believe him—and he will go to the first great meeting of the Northern Whigs in the town yeilded Belfast, and he will entreat to be enrolled a member of their body, and he will sign with his own hand all their papers:

He signed his place, and calling in full seeming  
With meekness and humility; but his heart  
Was crammed with arrogance.

And the members will take great delight in this youth, and some of them will enter into subscriptions to support him in his election—and many of the people of Belfast will wonder exceedingly, and Samuel Neilson himself will believe him—

For neither man nor angel can discern  
Hypocrisy, the only evil that walks  
Invisible, except God alone.

And he will stand on the hustings, in the great city of St. Patrick, on the first day of the month of May, in the year of our Lord, 1790, (it being the first day of the poll,) and in the presence of that great and independent county he will take its *test*—and the people will be much pleased therewith, and will enquire whose son the stripling is—and Robert will answer, I am the son of Robert, thy old and faithful servant: And during the continuance of the poll he will proclaim a great feast, to celebrate the memory of the immortal William—and he will invite all the princes, and the governors, and the sheriffs, and the counsellors, to make merry on the occasion—and he will take the chief place of the entertainment—and will speak in words of high praise of the venerable Charlemont, and then give his health together with that of *the glorious Volunteers of Ireland*, and the people will wonder much—and the princes, and the governors, and the sheriffs, and the counsellors, will wax glad—and the young patriot will dwell in sweetest accents on the character of *Grattan*, and *his illustrious friends in parliament*, and *drink their healths*—and he will drink disgrace and infamy to the *bribers* and the *bribed*—and he will expatiate with exceeding great delight on the independence of our parliament, and will drink *prosperity and everlasting independence to Ireland*—and the people of those days will wonder exceedingly and believe him—and in the warmth of his heart, he will anticipate the doctrines of Thomas Paine, and drink *equal liberty to all mankind*—and he will drink *all the Whig Clubs of Ireland* and *the Whig interest all the world over*—and to fill up the measure of his country's love, this young Belial will drink a toast, which the name of Mr. Fox will make long remembered, *our Sovereign Lord the People*; and what is very marvellous he will not be drunk—and he will, at the end of the sixty eight day's poll, be returned for that great and respectable county—and will publish an advertisement, and will thank his electors for their noble, virtuous, and independent support—and he will say in this manifesto, *I love the cause of the people, I revere the constitution, and I will maintain and defend both with the ardor of affection, which a youthful heart dictates, and which your generous confidence demands*—and the honest people will wonder exceedingly, and say Amen, Amen.

(To be continued.)

Continuation of the Portraits, Designs, and Drawings  
for the Exhibition of the *fine Arts* in Foster place.

THE *Speaker* of the House of Commons in the character of *St. Patrick*, frightening every reptile, and banishing *snakes in the grass* from the presence of *Hibernia*, who fondly looks at him with a strong expression of gratitude and admiration!

N. B.—*A charming picture, coloured on porphyria, elegantly framed, but not guilt\*, nor to be purchased at any price, but placed conspicuously to decorate this exhibition and excite emulation in the country.*

Sir John Parnell in the character of *Atlas*, supporting with *one hand*, the superincumbent weight of *Great Britain*, and with the other, *Ireland*, against the world.

N. B.—An athletic full length figure, displaying muscular strength with firmness, *done up in cast metal*, and not for sale; but like the former, sent as an ornament to the exhibition.

L—d C——gh in the character of young *Phaeton*, at the moment he has set the globe in flames, and forced from *opposition* to give up the reins to the fiery couriers, which hurl him down the precipice!

N. B.—*In the back ground groupes are discovered, some putting spokes, and others knaves†, in the wheels of the carriage, to prepare him for the journey, and many hammering their brains to make the disjointed fellows meet.*

Jonas Barrington, Esq. in the character of *Neptune*, keeping *Ireland afloat*, and putting in *his ear* (which happens to be of silver) by way of trident, tracing the *land marks*, and pointing out the *channel*, which keeps the two islands (though united by friendship) distant from each other. In water-colours, and yet a very glowing picture.

Sir J—n B——e, in the character and drapery of a Swiss Colonel. Motto, *point d'argent, point de Suisse!* MONT BLANC in the back and fore-ground.

N. B.—*This is a winter piece, both as frigid and unmelting as the original! It was sold to the Castle many years ago, and has been handed down as an heir loon to all the successors of that mansion.*

A well-known Irish Naval Captain, in the character of *Ben the Sailor*, in *Love for Love*, comforting *Hibernia*, (who is represented in tears) in his usual way, with a quid of tobacco in his mouth, and with one of *Ben's* sayings turned into Greek, to shew his learning, viz.

Θηρὸν εὐχρησὶς ὀρθῶς εὐτυγῶ

N. B. *A piece of ordnance supporting him, and the whole painted on canvas.*

Sir B——e R——e in the character of Captain *O'Blunder*, or the *Brave Irishman*, shewing how John